

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method of adapting the link speed of a network controller to the available power supply is provided. At higher network link speeds, computing systems consume more power. Thus, a network controller of the present invention selects a network adapter link speed  
5 in response to the availability and capacity of a local power supply, so as to maximize the longevity of system operation based upon this power supply. The network link speed may be altered in response to a periodic maintenance routine that lowers the link speed when the local power supply is finite in capacity (e.g., a battery or Uninterruptible Power System) and raises the link speed when the local power supply is infinite in capacity (e.g., an AC power source).